



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

After around seven months of construction, a newly-renovated lab space for the Department of Materials Science and Engineering is nearing completion. The renovation includes a new walk-through corner and glass wall, which will allow passers by at the intersection of Buildings 4 and 8 to look in without obstructing traffic down the Infinite Corridor. According to the on-site supervisor from Wise Construction, move-in is scheduled for January 18.

Proposal to Allow Second-Semester Frosh to Live in FSILGs Circulated

By Ziwei Hao
STAFF REPORTER

A recent proposal to allow second-semester freshmen to move into their respective fraternity, sorority, and independent living group (FSILGs) houses has generated campus-wide discussion. If implemented, it would be a major change to the 1998 decision that requires first year students to live in campus dormitories in response to the concerns about safety and risk management with the FSILG system.

The proposal, e-mailed by Brian T. Neltner G at the end of December, argues that second semester freshmen should have the freedom to move in with their FSILG for academic and social support.

“Our argument is that allowing freshmen to live with their chosen primary support group — be it a FSILG, dorm, or even off-campus — is the best option for freshmen,” said Neltner.

The e-mail mentions that allowing freshmen to move to their FSILG second term could help to alleviate dorm overcrowding. Most of the discussion generated by the e-mail has centered around this argument, debating its validity and impact. According to current MIT Housing and Admissions statistics, overcrowding may be a future issue, but it is not currently one of the greatest concerns.

“Given that all freshmen are housed on campus, the size of the student body is determined by the

amount of space we have in the housing system,” said Stuart Schmill ’86, the Dean of Undergraduate Admissions. “We aren’t planning on increasing the number of students we enroll unless there is space in the housing system.”

Some argued that FSILGs benefit financially from second semester freshmen from fraternity dues.

Others expressed concern that a surge of freshmen would overcrowd FSILGs.

“FSILGs can and do control how many people are moving into the house each year. For most fraternities, if there is space in the house, brothers will be allowed to move in,” said Michael Harradon ’13, a freshman in Zeta Psi, in response to the

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Faculty Approved HASS GIR Changes; Proposals To Science GIRs Rejected

By Joy Lee
STAFF REPORTER

More changes to the core curriculum, known as the General Institute Requirements (GIRs) are in order. At the faculty meeting last May, the proposed changes to the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) requirement passed, restructuring the HASS categories and simplifying the HASS requirement. The changes to the science portion of the curriculum went up for a vote at a special February faculty meeting and did not pass. Dean of Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings SM ’78 and Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Support Diana Henderson updated the status

of the changes at the October faculty meeting.

The new HASS system would contain three categories — Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences — as opposed to the five categories currently in place. Students would be required take one class from each of the three new categories, replacing the current HASS-D requirement, where students take one class from three of the five existing categories. The HASS-D designation thus would also disappear. The Communication Requirement and the requirement for a concentration within HASS would

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Multiple Changes to TEAL Format Have No Effect on Passing Rates for Physics

By Jiyeon Baek

Despite changes to the Technology Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) format — including optional problem sets — last semester’s failure rate for 8.01 (Physics I) was equivalent to that of last year’s 8.01 class, according to course administrator Thomas J. Greytak ’63. Eleven percent of 8.01 students received either a D or F grade last semester. Significant changes to the course included new in-class, hands-on demonstrations in addition to existing weekly experiments and making problem sets optional.

Greytak and Dourmashkin said

that the 8.01 professors felt that students would benefit more from having more undergraduate teaching assistants answering questions in the classrooms instead of grading the problem sets. The 8.01 professors also hoped that making problem sets optional would encourage students to learn on their own and reduce students’ workload from 8.01. Instead of grading the problem sets, Dourmashkin spent more time posting thorough, step-by-step solutions.

“A lot of students felt that it re-

8.01, Page 10

By Maggie Lloyd
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Education Working Group of the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force released its final report on December 16. Its cost-cutting recommendations include modifications to Add and Drop Date, an increase to the number of undergraduates, and the elimination of Athena computers.

Recommendations made by the committee were separated into two categories: “higher impact” and “lower impact.”

Higher impact recommendations

The recommendation likely to save the most for MIT, reducing costs by a projected \$30 million, is the recommendation to address inconsistencies in expected standard teaching loads and teaching assistant workloads across Schools, along with optimizing cross-School teaching, small classes, and time spent by teaching assistants creating new problem sets.

Included in this recommendation is a proposal for an increase in the Institute student-to-teacher ratio from 4.6 to 7 by decreasing “the number of people who help the faculty teach” or “replacing people with educational technology” such as OpenCourseWare. The report notes that these proposals must not sacrifice one of the educational principles defined by the working working group that calls for “constant and widespread faculty/student interaction.”

The Education Working Group also looked at MIT’s summer sessions and Add and Drop dates as possible sources of savings and revenue. Firstly, the report proposes a 10-week summer teaching program during which 12-unit “foundational” classes would be offered primarily to students outside of MIT. With a class tuition of \$2,750, this proposal

would bring in approximately \$5.5 million per summer, assuming the two-hour courses would occur twice a week and 30 students would enroll in each course.

Secondly, the working group proposed a change in Add and Drop dates, either by moving them earlier in the term or moving the Drop date to the same day as Add date in the fifth week of the term. This way, approximately \$1.3 million could be saved by a decreased waste in educational resources, such as staff members and space that are allocated based on initial enrollment.

A short-term plan to generate \$4 million in revenue each year is to increase the number of undergraduates by 10 percent. The Education report looks closely at this recommendation’s impact on both large and small classes. To avoid overcrowding the most popular lecture courses, which can reach an enrollment of more than 200 students, the working group considered increasing the number of transfer students who have already received credit in these introductory courses.

Additionally, international students tend to place out of General Institute Requirements, and so an increase in the amount of these students, like transfers, would be “less likely to burden the science/math GIRs.”

The report also studied the effects on crowding within the dorms that the recommendation will inevitably bring. The Education Working Group offered a variety of solutions, from the “viable” solutions, such as placing undergraduates in graduate housing, increasing the number of undergraduates living in Fraternities and Independent Living Groups, to the “very unrealistic” options, including renting space in a nearby hotel and establishing temporary dorms

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In Short

¶ **Mystery Hunt begins at noon on Friday** in Lobby 7. Get your teams ready for MIT’s legendary IAP puzzle competition. 2009’s winner, Beginner’s Luck, runs this year’s Hunt.

¶ **Pre-registration for the spring term ends tomorrow** at 5:00 p.m. After this time, students may no longer modify their pre-registration, including their HASS-D lottery entry. Students who have failed to pre-register will be fined \$75.

¶ **IAP pre-registration** also closes tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



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WORLD & NATION

Goldman E-mail Message Lays Bare Trading Conflicts

By Andrew Ross Sorkin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

For years, Wall Street whispered that Goldman Sachs profited handsomely by trading ahead of — or even against — its own clients. On Tuesday, a Goldman executive made an unusual admission that, in some cases, the rumors were true.

In an e-mail message to select clients, Thomas C. Mazarakis, the head of Goldman’s fundamental strategies group, acknowledged that his unit often provided investment ideas that the firm had already traded on. Sometimes Goldman has even taken the opposite approach, betting against particular instruments that the group has recommended.

“We may trade, and may have existing positions, based on trading ideas before we have discussed those trading ideas with you,” he wrote.

The statement comes as the firm faces growing criticism over its role in the financial crisis, and is a rare acknowledgment of Goldman’s conflicts with certain of its clients.

Google’s Nexus One Hurt By Inadequate Customer Support

By Jenna Wortham and Miguel Helft

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Google’s celebrated algorithms may power the Web’s most popular search engine, but they have not yet been programmed to answer a call when a customer has a problem.

New owners of the Nexus One, the latest touch-screen smartphone to run on Android, Google’s mobile operating system, have found themselves at a loss when it comes to resolving problems with the handset. They cannot call Google for help, and the company warns that it may take up to 48 hours to respond to e-mail messages.

Unlike other phones that run on Android, like the Motorola Droid or the T-Mobile G1, the Nexus One was developed and branded by Google and is sold directly by the company to customers.

But ever since the phone went on sale Jan. 5, customer forums have been filled with a cacophony of gripes about the Nexus One. And Google, more accustomed to providing minimal support for its free services, has been unprepared to deal with the higher service expectations of customers who are paying as much as \$529 for its high-end smartphone.

Management Shake-Up Continues at Disney

By Brooks Barnes

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

The Walt Disney Co. continues to slash and burn through the management ranks of its struggling motion picture studio as it works to return the division to profitability.

Oren R. Aviv, the studio’s top movie production executive, resigned under pressure on Tuesday. Aviv, who had been at Disney for 19 years, was responsible for the development and production of live-action movies like the forthcoming “Alice in Wonderland” and “Tron Legacy.”

In a management realignment in November, Rich Ross, the recently installed chairman of Walt Disney Studios, ousted a dozen managers, including top marketing and publicity executives. Aviv was spared and given a public vote of confidence. Ross praised him at the time for his “terrific filmmaker relationships and creative expertise.”

But it is now clear that Aviv’s retention was more about keeping a modicum of stability atop the studio as Ross made other changes. Ross has been charged by Robert A. Iger, Disney’s chief executive, with rethinking matters such as how the company markets its movies in the digital era and how it schedules the release of films on DVD and on-demand services.

Counseling Calm Over Latest Terrorism Plots

By Scott Shane

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

As terrorist plots against the United States have piled up in recent months, politicians and the news media have sounded the alarm with a riveting message for Americans: Be afraid. Al-Qaida is on the march again, targeting the country from within and without, and your hapless government cannot protect you.

But the politically charged clamor has lumped together disparate cases and obscured the fact that the jihadist enemies on American soil in 2009, rather than a single powerful and sophisticated juggernaut, were a scattered, uncoordinated group of amateurs who displayed more fervor than skill. Their weapons were old-fashioned guns and explosives — in several cases, duds supplied by FBI informants — with no trace of the biological or radiological poisons, let alone the nuclear bombs, that have long been the ultimate fear.

And though 2009 brought more domestic plots, and more serious plots, than any recent year, their lethality was relatively modest. Exactly 14 of the approximately 14,000 mur-

ders in the United States last year resulted from allegedly jihadist attacks: 13 people shot at Fort Hood in Texas in November and one at a military recruiting station in Little Rock, Ark., in June.

Such statistics would be no comfort, of course, if an attack with mass casualties succeeded some day.

Nor do they excuse the acknowledged missteps at the nation’s bulked-up security agencies that permitted a Nigerian student to carry a makeshift bomb onto a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day — the attempted attack that set off the flood of news coverage.

But even that near miss, said Mark M. Lowenthal, assistant director of the CIA for analysis from 2002 to 2005, may offer indirect evidence of the enemy’s diminished strength, compared with the coordinated attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“Sending one guy on one plane is a huge step down,” Lowenthal said. “They’re less capable, even if they’re still lethal. They’re not able to carry out the intense planning they once did.”

Counterterrorism experts inside and outside the government are in-

tensely debating the meaning of the flurry of plots last year, and there is no settled consensus. Somalia and Yemen have emerged decisively as jihadist hot spots that may pose a direct threat to the United States. CIA drone strikes in Pakistan’s tribal areas have by no means ended the threat from there, as the Dec. 30 suicide bombing that killed seven CIA employees in nearby Afghanistan grimly underscored. The Internet continues to prove a powerful tool for radicalization, as long-distance propagandists stir the ire of young Muslims about American wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But Lowenthal and others who urge a calmer, more strategic assessment of the recent rash of violent schemes insist that the country is far safer than it was in 2001. They also argue that since the goal of terrorism is to spread terror, hyperbole about threats only does the extremists’ work for them.

The 10 jihadist plots or attacks inside the United States in 2009 — a count by Bruce Hoffman, who studies terrorism at Georgetown University — had no evident links to one another and little in common beyond their apparent ideological motive.

Bankers’ Regrets Might Be Wrapped in Nuance

By Andrew Martin and Micheline Maynard

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As America recovers from the worst financial crisis since the Depression, some of the nation’s chief executives are offering that rarest of statements: an apology.

But often, their words are so carefully parsed, scrubbed by lawyers or picked over by public relations professionals that it is unclear just how much mea is in their culpa.

The former Time Warner chief, Gerald M. Levin, dropped jaws last week by taking the blame for “the worst deal of the century,” the decade-old merger of America Online and Time Warner. Yet few other chief executives, including the handful of Wall Street chieftains who acknowledge missteps, have embraced his plea to accept personal responsibility for decisions that have caused pain,

loss and suffering for many ordinary Americans.

“American culture does not put a premium on apology,” said Michael Useem, professor of management at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. “The level of anger in this public in general is extremely high against those who led Wall Street into the abyss, in part because they never stepped forward to apologize for the mess they made.”

The art of the nuanced regret — admitting mistakes without accepting blame — will be on display Wednesday at a hearing of the new Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission in Washington, where Lloyd C. Blankfein of Goldman Sachs, Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase, John J. Mack of Morgan Stanley and Brian T. Moynihan of Bank of America are to testify about their roles in the financial crisis.

Moynihan, who recently took over

Bank of America after Kenneth D. Lewis steered it into a troubled merger with Merrill Lynch, plans to say that the banking industry caused a lot of damage and acknowledge that mistakes made by financial companies can affect Main Street, said a person briefed on his testimony. But he will stop short of the statement that Blankfein offered several months ago.

Blankfein, whose firm is on track to report blowout 2009 profits, uttered the word “apologize” in November although he is not expected to repeat it in his testimony Wednesday. His remarks came a week after he drew fire for saying the firm was doing “God’s work,” but it was never clear what the subject of his atonement was. “We participated in things that were clearly wrong and have reason to regret and apologize for,” he said, without elaborating on what “things” the firm did wrong.

WEATHER

Heat Wave This Weekend

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

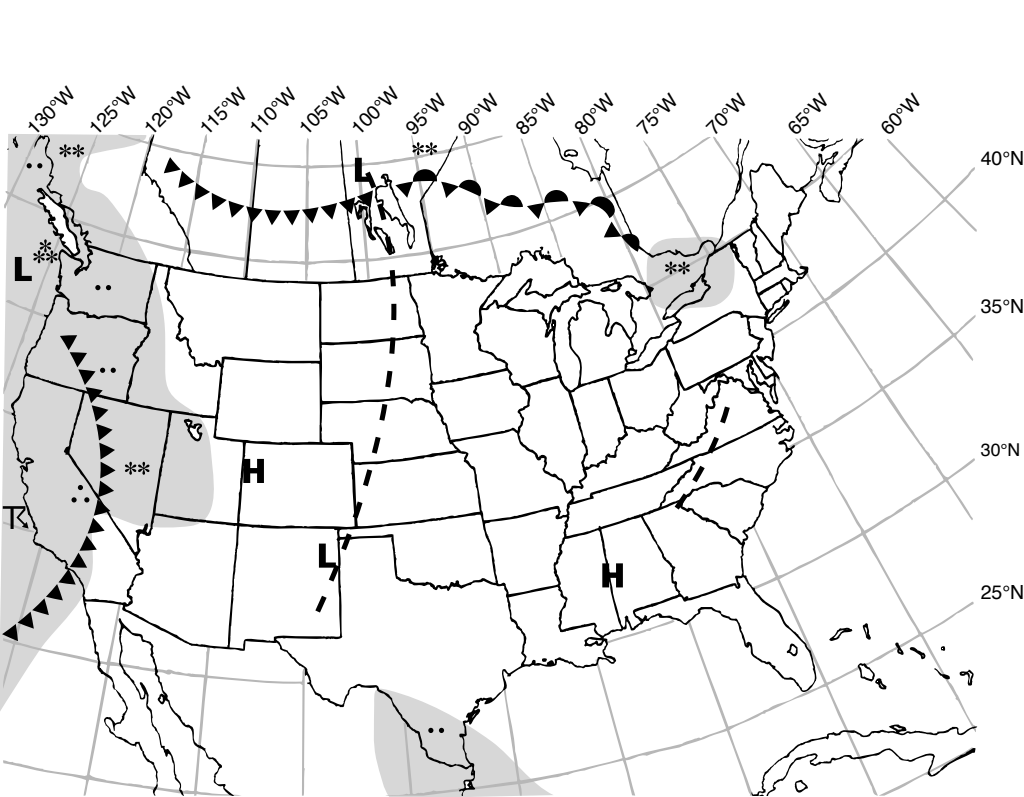
High pressure remains in control over the eastern part of the country, giving us a period of quiet weather through the end of the weekend. Plenty of sunshine will be available, giving some of the snow in the area a chance to melt, although this might be bad news for those who enjoy skiing and snowboarding. A “heat wave” slides in on Friday, with a high of 47°F, which is over 10°F above average for this time of year. Long range forecasts show the possibility of a winter storm Monday and Tuesday, but at this point the weather then is rather uncertain.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly Sunny. High 29°F (-2°C)
Tonight: Clear. Low 22°F (-6°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny. High 34°F (1°C)
Friday: Mostly Sunny. High 47°F (8°C)
Saturday: Partly Sunny. High 42°F (6°C)
Sunday: Partly Sunny. High 32°F (0°C)

| Weather Systems | Weather Fronts | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| H High Pressure | Trough | Snow | Fog |
| L Low Pressure | Warm Front | Rain | Thunderstorm |
| Hurricane | Cold Front | Light | Haze |
| | Stationary Front | Moderate | |
| | | Heavy | |

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 13, 2010



Report Links Vehicle Exhaust To Health Problems

By Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Exhaust from cars and trucks exacerbates asthma in children and may cause new cases as well as other respiratory illnesses and heart problems resulting in deaths, an independent institute that focuses on vehicle-related air pollution has concluded.

The report, to be issued on Wednesday by the nonprofit Health Effects Institute, analyzed 700 peer-reviewed studies conducted around the world on varying aspects of motor vehicle emissions and health. It found “evidence of a causal relationship,” but not proof of one, between pollution from vehicles and impaired lung function and accelerated hardening of the arteries.

It said there was “strong evidence” that exposure to traffic helped cause variations in heart rate and other heart ailments that result in deaths. But among the many studies that evaluated death from heart problems, some did not separate stress and noise from air pollution as a cause, it said.

The institute, based in Boston, is jointly financed by the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency and the auto industry to help assure its independence. Its reports are peer-reviewed but are not published in a scientific journal.

The researchers noted that proving that air pollution from vehicles caused illness was difficult. The pollutants studied often come from sources like industry in addition to cars and trucks, they said, and many of the studies failed to rule out factors like income levels that could contribute to the illnesses studied.

Many people who live near major roads fall into lower-income categories. Vibration and noise rather than air pollution could also cause some health damage, the report said.

Nonetheless, “we see a strong signal that says traffic exposure seems to be causing effects,” said Dan Greenbaum, the president of the institute.

The study found that the biggest effects occurred among people who lived within 300 to 500 meters — about two-tenths to three-tenths of a mile — from highways and major roads. That applies to 30 percent to 45 percent of the population of North

America, the authors said. The pollutants studied in the report do not include ozone, the chemical for which the EPA proposed new regulations last week. Ozone is more prevalent in places distant from highways. For many categories of health effects, the authors concluded that the studies completed so far suggested that air pollution from vehicles was the cause, without establishing that as fact.

Contacted for comment, the environmental agency said it welcomed the study. The agency added that it was taking steps to cut toxic materials in gasoline and that the federal recovery act included \$300 million for cleaning up diesel engines.

Outside experts briefed on the study had mixed reactions. “Like the issue of second-hand smoke, it’s very difficult to understand the exact mechanisms that make it bad — but it’s easy to understand that it is in fact bad,” said Rich Kassel, an expert on diesel engines at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. “This study underscores that difficulty.”

Google May End Its Operations in China

By Andrew Jacobs and Miguel Heftt
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

Google, facing an assault by hackers who sought to penetrate the e-mail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, will stop cooperating with Chinese censorship and consider closing its offices and operations in China altogether, the company said on Tuesday.

If it makes good on its threat, the abrupt departure from China would be a startling end to Google’s foray into a country with more than 300 million Internet users. Since arriving here in 2006 under an arrangement with the government that purged its Chinese search results of banned topics, Google has come under fire for abetting a system that increasingly restricts what its citizens can read on the Internet.

Google said it was unclear who orchestrated the attacks on its computer systems but described them as “highly sophisticated” and said they included an assault on at least 20 other large companies in the finance, technology, media and chemical sectors.

The primary goal of the hackers,

the company said, were the Gmail accounts of human rights activists, although none of the targeted accounts were breached.

Google did not publicly link the Chinese government to the cyberattack, but people with knowledge of Google’s investigation said they had enough evidence to justify its actions.

The company said the attacks originated within China, which has long constrained the search engine’s results and presented a challenge to the company’s guiding zeitgeist, “Don’t be evil.” The company said it would try to work out an arrangement with the Chinese government to provide an uncensored Internet — a tall order in a country that heavily filters the Web — but that it would close its offices in China if its demands were not met.

“We have decided we are no longer willing to continue censoring our results on Google.cn, and so over the next few weeks we will be discussing with the Chinese government the basis on which we could operate an unfiltered search engine within the law, if at all,” David Drummond, a senior vice president of corporate develop-

ment and chief legal officer, said in a statement.

Wenqi Gao, a spokesman for the Chinese Consulate in New York, said he did not see any problems with Google.cn. “I want to reaffirm that China is committed to protecting the legitimate rights and interests of foreign companies in our country,” he said in a phone interview.

In China, search requests that include words such as “Tiananmen Square massacre” or “Dalai Lama” come up blank. In recent months, the government has also blocked YouTube, Google’s video sharing service.

Google’s apparent decision to play hardball with the Chinese government raises enormous risks for the company. While Google’s business in China remains small for now, analysts say that the country could soon become one of the most lucrative Internet markets.

“The consequences of not playing the China market could be very big for any company, but particularly for an Internet company that makes its money from advertising,” said David Yoffie, a professor at Harvard Business School.

O’Brien Says He Won’t Host ‘Tonight Show’ After Leno

By Bill Carter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NBC may control its airwaves but it does not apparently control Conan O’Brien.

Less than a week after NBC told him they intended to move his “Tonight Show” to a new time, 12:05 a.m., O’Brien he said he would not agree to what he considered a demotion for the institution of the “Tonight Show” — and his own career — by going along with NBC’s plans to push him back a half-hour to make room for his predecessor at “Tonight,” Jay Leno.

O’Brien’s artfully composed statement Tuesday said that he so respects that institution of the “Tonight Show” that he could not participate in what “I honestly believe is its destruction.”

Pointedly, O’Brien did not resign or indicate he would not show up for work. But an executive at the network who declined to be identified because of ongoing negotiations said that O’Brien would leave once a financial settlement was reached.

Even by Hollywood standards,

O’Brien’s letter was an extraordinary gesture — releasing a statement on a public relations news service to make public his anger at the company paying him tens of millions of dollars before he even reached a settlement. The closest episode in history may be when Jack Paar walked off the set of “The Tonight Show” in a huff over corporate censorship.

Paar returned to the show within a month in 1960 but few are predicting a reconciliation between O’Brien and the network. NBC executives continued Tuesday to work toward a financial settlement though some indicated increasing impatience with O’Brien’s effort to blame the network for the three-car pile-up in late night.

The host, who saw his brief run as host of “Tonight” cut short when NBC decided to restore Leno to the 11:35 p.m. time period, has been growing increasingly upset in recent days about how he believes he was treated by NBC’s management.

A representative of the host said Tuesday that the issue came to a head for O’Brien on Monday and that he

had “sat up all night drafting the statement.”

The statement also took NBC to task for not giving the show more time or supplying stronger lead-in audiences, which could be interpreted as a shot at Leno’s poor performance at 10 p.m. “After only seven months,” O’Brien wrote, “with my ‘Tonight Show’ in its infancy, NBC has decided to react to their terrible difficulties in prime-time by making a change in their long-established late-night schedule.”

He hosted the show Tuesday night, even as negotiations, which one participant described as intense, continued throughout the day.

Nor did NBC take any extraordinary steps to interfere with O’Brien continuing — at least for the moment — to host the show. Though some rumors appeared saying NBC might be lining up guests hosts, NBC quietly dismissed that notion — and indeed such a move could have legal implications because it might be interpreted as NBC firing O’Brien, which could lead to a bigger settlement for him.

Study Questions Value of a Therapy for Injuries

By Gina Kolata

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The treatment has become so popular that patients with orthopedic injuries are demanding it, willing to pay \$1,000 or more out of their own pocket. Its appeal only soared higher when professional athletes like Tiger Woods and the football players Troy Polamalu and Hines Ward reported that it cured them.

It is a new procedure, based on an idea that once seemed revolutionary: Inject people with their own blood, concentrated so it is mostly platelets, the tiny colorless bodies that release substances that help repair tissues.

Soon the treatment, platelet-rich plasma, or PRP, was extended to so many uses — treating muscle sprains and tendon pulls and tears, arthritis, bone fractures and surgical wounds — that Dr. Bruce Reider, editor of The American Journal of Sports Medicine, said in a recent editorial that perhaps it should be called “platelet-rich panacea.”

Thousands of doctors and about 500 hospitals are offering the treatment, said Frank Stephenson, vice president for marketing and sales of Harvest Technologies, among several companies selling equipment for concentrating blood platelets.

Now, though, the first rigorous study asking whether the platelet injections actually work finds they are no more effective than salt water. The study, reported in the Jan. 13 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, involved people with injured Achilles’ tendons, fibrous tissue that connects the calf to the heel bone.

Motorcycle Bomb Kills Physicist in Tehran

By Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

A remote-controlled bomb attached to a motorcycle killed an Iranian physics professor outside his home in north Tehran on Tuesday, state media reported. The reports blamed the United States and Israel for the attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. A state broadcaster, IRIB, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that “in the initial investigation, signs of the triangle of wickedness by the Zionist regime, America and their hired agents are visible in the terrorist act” against the scientist, Massoud Ali Mohammadi.

A State Department spokesman in Washington dismissed the accusation of U.S. involvement as “absurd.”

Two other people were wounded in the blast, which was powerful enough to shatter the windows in a nearby four-story building.

The English-language Press TV said Ali Mohammadi, 50, taught neutron physics at Tehran University, though he did not seem to have any connection to Iran’s nuclear enrichment program.

Lawyers Challenge Ohio On Executions

By Ian Urbina

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Proper training of prison officials could have prevented a botched execution in Ohio last year that led the state to overhaul its method of execution, lawyers for several death row inmates have argued in court filings.

The filings contend that Ohio prison officials have shown a consistent disregard for their own rules in carrying out executions, including failing to ensure that execution staff members attend required rehearsals and training.

And they contend that one of the people who helped conduct the botched execution on Sept. 15, involving an inmate named Romell Broom, was inadequately trained and had failed to attend all the required rehearsals.

That employee is a licensed emergency medical technician, but has not worked as one for several years, does not regularly establish IVs and was out of practice at the time of Broom’s attempted execution, according to the court documents filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Columbus.

Broom was convicted of kidnapping, raping and killing Tryna Middleton, 14, in 1984. At his scheduled execution, prison officials stuck him with a needle for nearly two hours in a failed effort to find a usable vein. Gov. Ted Strickland ordered the execution halted.

Closing Pipeline to Needy, City Shreds Clothes

By Jim Dwyer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

New York City officials destroyed tons of new, unworn clothing and footwear last year that had been seized in raids on counterfeit label operations, abandoning a practice of giving knockoff garments to groups that help the needy.

Last summer, the Police Department rented an industrial shredder to destroy a dozen tractor-trailer loads of bootleg goods after they were no longer needed as evidence in legal proceedings. It also has been shipping truckloads of garments — including winter jackets, shirts, pants and underwear — to an incinerator in Hempstead, on Long Island. The city pays about \$150 a ton to burn them.

“All the disposal is done under the supervision of law enforcement,” said Kathy Dawkins, a spokeswoman for the city’s Department of Sanitation. “It is called a witnessed burn.”

Until last April, the city had turned over some of the seized goods to not-for-profit organizations, including World Vision and the New York City Clothing Bank, which removed labels and defaced the counterfeit trademarks, then distributed the clothing to aid groups across the city.

A spokesman for the Police Department said that no one asked for the knockoffs in 2009 — an explanation that was bewildering to the operators of the clothing bank, who run a warehouse that supplies clothing to needy New Yorkers. They said they had made many requests.

“It would be hard to justify taking a truckload of perfectly good clothes and incinerating them, but that’s what’s happening,” said William Montana, a real estate adviser who is on the board of the clothing bank.

OPINION

‘The Tech’ on the Task Force Report



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Were we conspiracy theorists, we would have to say that the release of the Institute-wide Planning Task Force’s Final Report smack in the middle of final’s week was done purposefully to minimize the number of students who would read and comment on it immediately. The timing, coming almost two months behind schedule, certainly seems coincidental, and intentional or not, student commentary on the report has been muted.

Were we unbridled optimists, we would say that this is because students have read and agree with the report, and

that it represents a perfect example of a joint study to promote efficiency at MIT while preserving the essential culture of the Institute. Unfortunately, we aren’t, they haven’t, and it doesn’t.

So starting today and running throughout IAP, *The Tech* will be analyzing and reporting on the Task Force report. We will shed light on some of the report’s biggest and most profound failings, but will also take the time to note the ideas that are truly salutary for all of MIT. This is a time of change. Some proposals, such as abandoning current work on W1, will

shape the course of the Institute for years to come. They will redefine our priorities and the values we profess to hold. Few of them will be painless.

Change is, however, ultimately necessary for MIT to survive financially and remain at the forefront of academia. The question, of course, is finding the changes that, as the Task Force says, allow MIT to “stay true to its core.” Below, we begin our discussion by tackling a topic the Task Force failed to; what, exactly, is MIT’s core, and how should we preserve it?

What Makes Up MIT’s Core?

Perhaps the biggest disappointment in the Task Force Final Report is the ambiguity about the parts of the community and MIT core that are worth preserving. While the report references community involvement as a way of ensuring that MIT stays “true to its core,” there is little substance to this hope.

What does the Task Force Report mean when it says “core”? MIT was chartered as an institution for the advancement of science and technology education and research. To that end, *The Tech* believes that MIT’s core consists of the community of students, faculty and support staff who make that mission possible. But what distinguishes these groups and what constitutes the unique core of the Institute is the MIT mentality — independence, innovation, dedication and responsibility. These virtues define MIT and should be the standard by which any changes to the Institute are evaluated.

So how does the Task Force measure up to these standards? Do the proposed changes respect students as a source of innovation and maintain faculty and departmental independence? Do these changes call for students, faculty, and support per-

sonnel alike to be responsible for their role in MIT’s budget?

To be sure, the Task Force read the Undergraduate Association’s response to the preliminary report and acknowledged that contribution. Similarly, they set up the Idea Bank to garner suggestions from all of campus. But where’s the follow-through? By relegating most of the proposed changes, such as overhauls of the dining system and physical education requirement, to over a dozen departments and project teams, the Task Force risks losing valuable student input regarding policy implementation. Departments in charge of Task Force changes, like the Division of Student Life or the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, have a shaky track record of genuinely responding to student input. If the Task Force wants to stay true to the MIT value of innovation, it should not assign responsibility for proposed changes to any group until that group demonstrates it has an effective mechanism for soliciting and responding to student input.

The Task Force asks everyone for a lot of concessions. Undergraduate students may need to give up guaranteed four-year

housing and cut back on excessive electricity use or pay the difference. Graduate students will need to adhere to more rigorous standards as TAs and may face a “right-sizing” of their student population. Faculty will be held accountable for managing their space more wisely and may need to consolidate certain equipment across laboratories. Support and administrative staff may face renegotiation of their contracts. It’s too early to tell the extent of these changes. But the equitable distribution of responsibility for saving MIT money is a virtue that should not be lost among disparate “project teams” — there should be constant and centralized review of all the proposed reforms to ensure that every member of the MIT community is doing their part to bring the Institute through the financial crisis.

The Task Force did a good job in coming up with ideas to save MIT money. But the real importance comes in the proper implementation of these ideas and appropriate oversight. The MIT administration should hearken back to the core groups and core values of our community to properly follow through with this ambitious undertaking.



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Protest in Iran: What Happens Next Is Anybody’s Guess

David A. Weinberg

One of the most difficult aspects of the study of politics is recognizing the natural tendency in human psychology toward certainty and simplification, even when the data itself is not entirely clear. More difficult still is resisting this temptation when powerful historical analogies are available that cursorily appear to match the current experience.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what I believe is happening with most of the current analysis regarding the opposition Green Movement protests in Iran. On one hand, some suggest that the current protests signal the start of a second Iranian revolution, drawing strong parallels to the year of protests that preceded the overthrow of the Shah in 1979 (my colleague, Ryan Normandin ’13, is among this group, but he is not alone — see, for example, the work of conservative Iran-watcher Michael Ledeen). On the other hand, some point to the regime’s capacity to stifle public outcry in the past and confidently conclude that another revolution is highly improbable (one prominent example is the recent *New York Times* op-ed by the left-wing Leverett couple).

However, I would argue that we have no way to tell just yet where these events are going to lead. We can say with certainty that these protests are the longest running and most expansive since the foundation of the Islamic Republic and that the regime has employed de-

spicable tactics in its attempt to crush the demonstrations, including intimidation, imprisonment, show trials, torture, and executions.

The reason the outcome of these events is so difficult to predict is that there are two very strong forces engaging in this struggle, contending to dictate the future of the Iranian nation: advocates of change and reactionary forces associated with the regime. And, in nearly every dimension of the crisis, both sides are working off of a similar script based on past experience and current prospects.

For all the talk of this being a “postmodern” revolution in which the opposition uses social networking tools to mobilize the public, far less widely considered is the fact that the ruling elite has selectively blocked internet access and infiltrated these networks for the purposes of intelligence gathering and planting disinformation. Traditional media has also been strongly hemmed in, with foreign journalists forbidden from covering protests and key Iranian journalists having been put behind bars or facing imminent arrest.

Although the Green Movement and its leaders exert rhetorical pressure on the bureaucracy and law enforcement to support the aspirations of the public — driving conscientious objectors to leak incriminating government documents or show occasional leniency against the protesters — on the whole, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei retains the loyalty of Iran’s armed forces, police, and judiciary, its Revolutionary Guards and the volunteer Basij

corps, and they continue to wage a coordinated campaign to contain the damage and range of the protest movement.

The recent death of opposition cleric Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri has served as a shot in the arm to the opposition, providing a clear focal point for the timing of upcoming street protests. But it is also likely that in the long term, the death of Ayatollah Montazeri will deprive the opposition of an important rallying figure with the legitimacy to issue pro-democracy religious edicts.

In fact, even a ratcheting up of international sanctions could hypothetically rebound in either direction. Carefully targeted (so-called “smart”) sanctions have the capability to further detract from the legitimacy of the Iranian government and provide additional incentives for Iran’s people to mobilize in favor its overthrow. However, if applied poorly, sanctions can also be self-defeating, sapping a country of its politically vocal middle class or providing dictators with a visible external enemy against which to redirect public anger.

Finally, much of the public discourse in the U.S. ignores the fact that both sides in Iran are actually heterogeneous movements, often with conflicting or unclear goals. Some among the Green Movement do not want to change the Islamic Republic, and the opposition’s rallying cry is nominally more about civil rights and reform within the system than it is about overthrowing the Supreme Leader or prevailing system of government. Also, many politicians

who have joined ranks with the government have distanced themselves from the more detestable and well-documented forms of repression and ballot-rigging that have been carried out by the state over the past year.

At the end of the day, it is still too early to tell where the protests in Iran are likely to lead. The outcome depends upon a complex series of political interactions and calculations that have yet to be borne out, and, without a doubt, many of the confident predictions made by commentators today are likely to be proven wrong in retrospect.

Indeed, rather than drawing an analogy to the Iranian Revolution itself, perhaps we would be better advised to look back at what our most well-informed analysts believed before the final outcome was clear. In fact, neither American nor British intelligence had the foggiest idea where the protests would lead. Yes, the eventual outcome was among the list of possible predictions, but so were a military coup and a Communist takeover — talk about being all over the map!

Sometimes, the data is simply ambiguous, and the ongoing political turmoil in Iran is one such case. That having been said, there is certainly no doubt which faction is morally in the right: Our hearts go out to the brave protesters in Iran. They are fighting to achieve their most basic human rights in the face of a deeply tyrannical government, and we can all agree in principle upon our common, sincere wish that they shall overcome.

Illegal Immigration: It’s Illegal

Ryan Normandin

Blue hats are blue. Big trees are big. Do you agree with these statements? How about this one: Illegal immigration is illegal. For some reason, this point has been a contentious issue in the United States over the past few years.

Some argue that allowing illegal immigrants into our country helps our economy. Others contend that illegal immigration takes place because legal immigration is simply too inconvenient. Many point out that all people deserve to have a great life in America; everyone should enjoy our liberties and freedoms, especially when illegals often flee to America from oppressive regimes. Illegals are humans, and we need to be compassionate toward their needs. But the fact remains: Illegal immigration is illegal. And by “illegal,” I mean “against the law.”

Of course, all laws are not right or just. If a law is wrong, it should not be followed and people should fight to repeal it. But our immigration laws exist for very good reasons. They prevent criminals, carriers of infectious disease, and other dangerous individuals from crossing our borders.

The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force concedes that “immigration has ... played a major role in the rise and proliferation of Hispanic gangs in the region.” Many of their members are likely illegal immigrants, and while I don’t pretend that every one of these individuals would have been rooted out had they gone through the legal

immigration processes, there is no denying that many would have been.

Moving beyond the crime statistics, allow me to address those who argue that illegal immigrants help our economy by taking jobs that no other Americans would want. In a recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center, there were approximately 8.3 million illegals in the U.S. labor force in 2008. Also in 2008, the number of unemployed Americans jumped past 10 million. There is no doubt that many of those 10 million would be only too willing to take jobs they would have avoided under normal economic circumstances.

Unfortunately, many of those jobs were taken by people who should not even be in the country. In fact, a 1997 study by the American Academy of Sciences found that between 1980 and 1994, the cheap labor of illegal immigrants caused up to a 44 percent decrease in wages among the poorest legal citizens. Since then, the economy has only gotten worse and the unemployment rate has soared. How many of those ten million unemployed would be working if illegal immigrants had not taken the jobs? How many of millions or billions of dollars would American citizens be saved in unemployment benefits?

It makes no sense for taxpayers to pay for unemployment benefits because immigrants who are here illegally are taking jobs, leaving legal citizens unemployed. Not every job filled by an illegal immigrant would be taken if that person was not here, but a very large, very significant portion would be. And if even one more legal citizen is able to provide for his or her family because one less illegal

immigrant came here, then it is absolutely worth it.

Some people argue that our immigration system is simply too cumbersome to expect people to follow it. But then murderers, robbers, and other criminals might have a similar attitude towards the law, and that’s no excuse. The vast majority of Americans came to the country through immigration long ago, and many did so risking their lives traveling across the Atlantic Ocean in boats that were crawling with disease. They did so through the long waits and difficult experience of Ellis Island.

They earned their places in American society. Any illegal immigrant who does otherwise is spitting on the graves of those who came here legally and those who perished in the effort. If people come to America to achieve the “American Dream,” the first step is to obey the law. I apologize if the immigration system is “cumbersome,” but Americans have every right to ensure that anyone entering this country is not a terrorist, criminal, or otherwise a threat to American society.

Many people say that we need to be compassionate towards illegal immigrants. I agree. We should be compassionate in our dealings with all types of criminals, but being compassionate and ignoring the law are two different things. Where is our compassion for all those legal citizens who are out of work because of illegal immigrants? How about all the families that have been torn apart by a death at the hand of an illegal immigrant? The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that in 2004, there were

6,181,000 traffic accidents that killed 42,636 and injured 2,788,000. If illegal immigrants are responsible for only 5 percent (and by some estimates even more), that is 309,050 accidents, 2,132 deaths, and 139,400 injuries.

In addition, illegal immigrants would be responsible for \$11.5 billion of taxpayer money in associated costs. Advocates ask for compassion. How about compassion for the thousands that have lost their lives as a result of illegal immigrants? The fact that Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick wants to allow illegals to get drivers licenses and attend college at an in-state tuition rate makes me sick. They should be deported, not rewarded, for their criminal acts.

One final argument is that the fee associated with immigration is too high and the test they have to take expects too much. But if coming to America is really worth it, then that money can be saved and the information necessary studied and learned. Therefore, there is no logical basis for arguing that illegal immigrants in this country should be treated as anything other than criminals. They are a risk to our national security, a risk to the welfare of our people, and an expensive cost to the taxpayers. I have a strong admiration for all those immigrants who had the strength of will to come to America seeking greater liberties and prosperity, and who did it legally to allow their new home to remain safe. Those who come to our country but are not willing to follow our laws are not worthy of admiration, only a ticket back to where they came from.



ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½ / 4

A Modest Film that Succeeds in Subtlety

‘Up in the Air’ Possesses an Honest Poignancy

By Jeff Chen

Up in the Air
Directed by Jason Reitman
Starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick
Rated R
Now Playing

Hollywood has no modesty. Since Tinseltown’s earliest incarnations, the illustrious directors and actors that have graced the big screen have attacked their tasks with a ferocious desire for distinction. As such, our cinemas are saturated with brainchildren of Michael Bays and James Camerons, waving their hands feverishly about, spittle flying across the room, conjuring up massive explosions and lush CGI landscapes. And why not? We watch movies to escape our dreary realities, to fall into a more captivating world. But once in a while, Hollywood will surprise us with a film that is deceptively modest, and we marvel at its unique beauty.

Up in the Air starts off with a relatively worn recipe — take a charming, handsome protagonist and place him in a morally questionable career. Make him very, very good at it. If you’ve seen *Thank You for Smoking*,

(incidentally by the same director, Jason Reitman) you’ll know what I’m talking about. But while Aaron Eckhart can make you hate to love him, Clooney’s unparalleled panache quells any such reservations. He is, without a question, what every man aspires to be, but can never match. As Ryan Bingham, a “Termination Facilitator,” he needs every ounce of Clooney-charm to confront the men and women of the American workforce that he fires — for a living. His home is the airport, his pleasure, the plane. To him they symbolize personal freedom with no strings attached, collecting only frequent flyer miles and not emotional baggage. But when bright-eyed Cornell grad Natalie (she could easily have been a Sloan alum) threatens to ruin his way of life with the advent of computerized layoffs (read: Skype), Clooney takes her under his wing to show her the subtlety and dignity behind delivering the words, “Unfortunately there is no longer an available position for you at this company.”

This is when the movie comes onto its own. It makes no effort to draw out the extraor-

dinary, or deliver the unexpected. It simply places a few elegantly charming, yet flawed characters together, shakes well, and waits. What grows is a blooming story ripe with the sweetest moments, most bitter of realizations, and an honest poignancy that catapults the film far above those that try to slide by with manipulative soundtracks and onion tears.

There is a particularly touching scene in which Ryan and Natalie check into a hotel, during which Natalie argues fiercely with Ryan about the merits of marriage and stable relationships, which the latter parries nonchalantly. After all, how many people do you know in a stable marriage? During a silence, Natalie simply bursts into tears. “Brian left me!” she reveals, attracting the whole lobby’s attention. Ryan is clearly uncomfortable, but does his best to console her. Just then, Alex, the woman Ryan had met just weeks before approaches, with Natalie still sobbing like a baby in Ryan’s arms.

At Alex’s suggestion, they sit down for drinks. Natalie talks about her aspirations, her mistakes, her future. She lets slip a faux

pas about Ryan and Alex’s age. The look that Ryan and Alex give her could melt the steeliest heart; it is one of blasé, maternal understanding, of I’ve-been-there and you’ll-learn-when-you’re-older. Natalie asks Alex about her requirements in a man. Alex replies, with a hint of disillusionment, “Honestly, by the time you’re 34, all the physical requirements go out the window...” Her list is prudent. Nice guy, great with kids, fit enough to take care of the family. You can picture your own mother giving the same speech. “Oh, and a nice smile. That just might do it.” Alex concludes.

The scene is painfully genuine. As so with the rest of the film, which deals with commitment, friendship, unemployment, ambition, grief, love, and heartbreak. It handles these topics with a mature respect. Reitman even asked real people who had been recently laid off to come and discuss their feelings on camera. Their performances shine, because they are real. As in life, *Up In The Air* has no satisfying conclusion, and answers no questions. As in life, some problems have been solved, but many others remain. As in life, the future is uncertain: This is the truth, and let it be known that truth is not only stranger than fiction, but more powerful than it as well.

[George Clooney] is, without a question, what every man aspires to be, but can never match.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½ / 4

‘Leap Year’ Is Cute But Falls Short

Your Typical Romantic Comedy with a Rakish Male Lead

By Maggie Liu
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Leap Year
Directed by Anand Tucker
Starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode
Rated PG
Now Playing

Meet Anna. A cute girlish face with a no nonsense aura, her vivacious nature manifests only in her shock of auburn hair. The diminutive redhead seems to have it all — a doctor boyfriend, a wonderful job, gorgeous wardrobe, and on top of it she’s in queue for the apartment of her dreams. The only catch is that her cardiologist-of-a-boyfriend, Jeremy, has not proposed despite their four year-long relationship. When Jeremy goes to Dublin for a medical conference, Anna decides to take matters into her own hands. She

jumps on a plane and devises a scheme to propose to Jeremy on February 29th — spurred by an Irish tradition allowing women to propose to their lover on Leap Day.

Now, as all romantic comedies will have it, this movie is not about Anna and Jeremy. No, instead, Anna ensnares an Irish innkeeper as her driver to Dublin and embarks upon her tumultuous and eventful journey. Her companion, Declan, is not like Jeremy at all. In fact, he is quite the surly Irishman who does not find it amusing in the least to be dragged around Ireland by a crazy American redhead but only agrees because he is beleaguered by loan sharks.

This is your typical romance comedy. It is fluffy, light-hearted, and barely salvaged from being like the rest because the lead male is such a churlish character and the cinematographer a genius. Declan, played by Matthew Goode,

is first introduced in a thousand ways disgusting. He hocks spit, he’s sullen, short-tempered, and most of all, he is a complete cynic of love. This does not bode well with Anna as Declan downright trods on the purpose of her journey — “That’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard.” Furthermore, he dares to insult her Louis Vuitton luggage — “How is it romantic for him [Jeremy] to buy you a suitcase?” Of course, being that this disagreeable Irishman is ruggedly attractive and armed with a thick European accent, Anna predictably ends up falling for him.

The film doesn’t promise to be what it’s not. The trailer delivers pretty much everything there is in the film — what the audience expects and nothing more. A major factor is probably poor screenplay. The best moments are those that involve no dialogue — Declan’s wry smirks at Anna’s antics or Anna’s frustrated tantrums and wide-eyed disbelief. Declan’s personification of

Anna’s suitcase as “oh Louis” is also endearing. The worst moments are the pockets of seriousness. In the instance when tipsy Anna tries to analyze Declan’s character, she pronounces him to be “a beast — a beast with ... a big thorn in your ... beastly paw.” Eloquence is not exactly the characters’ forte.

Another aspect that bothered me was the whole concept of women only being allowed to propose on leap year. Why is it that Anna could not have simply asked Jeremy about marriage? The social stigma that men always have to “seal the deal” seems both antiquated and silly. Then again, this superstition made it possible for a hotheaded young woman to teeter-totter around Ireland in \$600 heels. *Leap Year* is cute without being overly sappy. Goode’s rugged charm and the lovely sceneries of Ireland keep the audience sated enough to prevent them from complaining too much.

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MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½ / 4

Disney's 'Princess and the Frog'

An Instant Classic in 2D

By Emily Nardoni
STAFF WRITER
Princess and the Frog
Directed by Ron Clements & John Musker
Starring the voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos and Jennifer Cody
Rated PG
Now Playing

Fellow Disney fans, we have what we've been waiting for: the first classic Disney animated film of the decade. *The Princess and the Frog* is a genuinely funny, heart-felt, feel-good adventure worthy of carrying the revered title of Walt Disney Animation Studios, after a dry spell in successful hand-drawn films since 1999's *Tarzan*. *Princess* is set in New Orleans during the roaring twenties, a time rich in the culture of jazz and excess. Tiana, the movie's main character and Disney's first African-American princess, is a hard-working waitress with big dreams of achieving what her father never could: one day opening a restaurant of her own. While Tiana's dream seems far from fruition, her childhood friend Charlotte hopes for her own fairy tale ending with the handsome Prince Naveen of Maldonia, a carefree and spoiled young prince who must marry a wealthy southerner like Charlotte to maintain his leisurely

lifestyle. But when an encounter with the mysterious voodoo doctor known as "The Shadow Man" turns Naveen into a frog, and a kiss intended to reverse the damage transforms Tiana as well, the two must seek the infamous voodoo priestess of the Bayou — Mama Odie — to set things right. The movie is groundbreaking on several levels. First, *Princess* is Disney's first 2-D animated film since 2004's *Home on the Range*, and the result of such meticulous hand-drawing is a truly beautiful film. New Orleans comes alive with vibrant hues and breathtaking cityscapes, while a sometimes mysterious, sometimes welcoming mood is convincingly painted in the marshes of the Bayou. What *Avatar* is for modern 3-D special effects, *Princess* is for old-fashioned 2-D animation. One particularly noteworthy scene portrays a massive swarm of twinkling lightning bugs bouncing rhythmically through the evening swamp: the effect of which is both heartwarming and stimulating. Secondly, Tiana is Disney's first black princess — a landmark both long in coming and thoroughly fitting. But while this milestone deserves attention in itself, the writers did more than stick a colored heroine in Disney's classic princess-in-distress scenario; the originality and culture of the characters is what really earns this

film praise. Tiana is likeable as a strong-willed girl (or frog) on a mission, Naveen is hilarious and sweet despite his laziness, and the jazz-loving trumpet-toting alligator they meet along the way is both lovable and highly entertaining. My personal favorite was the heavily-accented Cajun firefly who guided them through the Bayou — Ray — whose heartbreaking solo to his love was a highlight of the film. And, in classic Disney fashion, *The Princess and the Frog* showcased a killer villain. Dr. Facilier — a.k.a. "The Shadow Man" — was evil to his core, whose creepy voodoo magic via his "friends on the other side" is both chilling and downright frightening. While he's no Maleficent or Jafar, Dr. Facilier more than holds his own as the film's antagonist. But beyond the beautiful scenery, well-written script (prepare to laugh and "aww" often), and memorable characters, holding *Princess* up was its soundtrack. Strong jazz influences, stellar vocals (Tiana's voice, Anika Noni Rose, in particular), and catchy tunes will have you singing along for days afterwards. In the same way that kids (or college students) can still belt the lyrics to *Mulan*'s "Be a Man" or *The Lion King*'s "Hakuna Matata," this soundtrack will join Disney's lengthy repertoire of fun and celebrated movie songs for generations to come.



COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY STUDIOS
Disney's *Princess and The Frog* has many of the elements which bring Disney back to its roots of fun family films. It combines lovable characters, a cute storyline, and great songs to create a new classic animated film.

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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

Sudoku

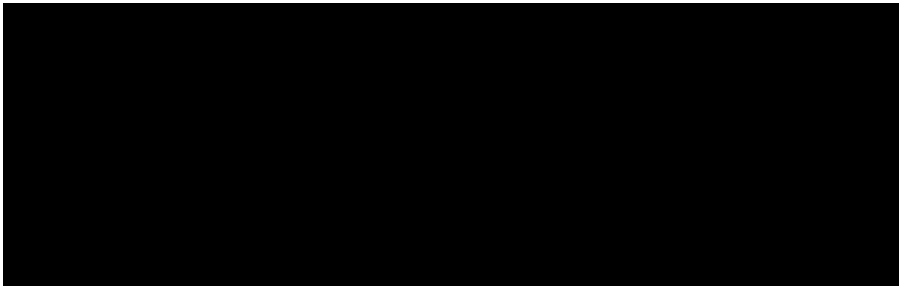
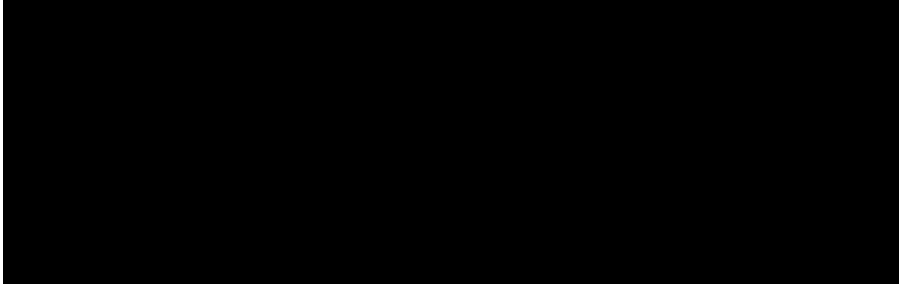
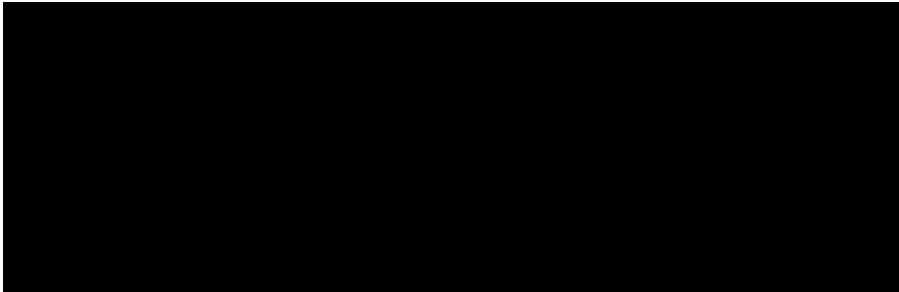
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution on page 10.



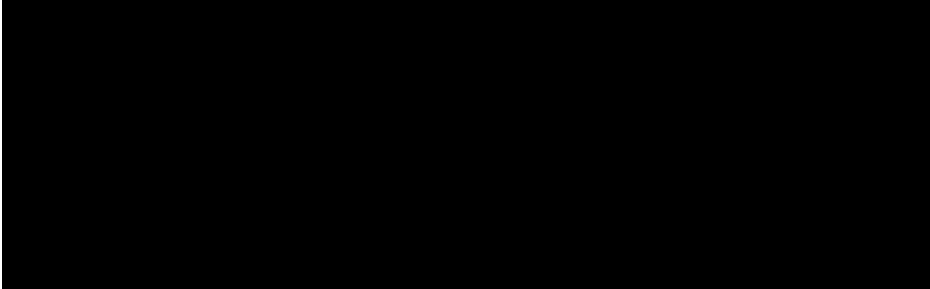
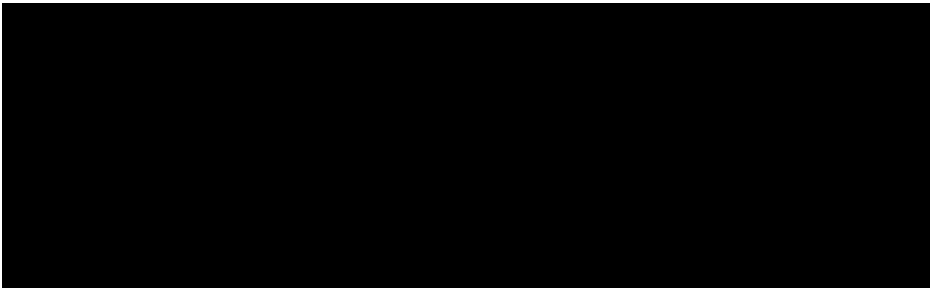
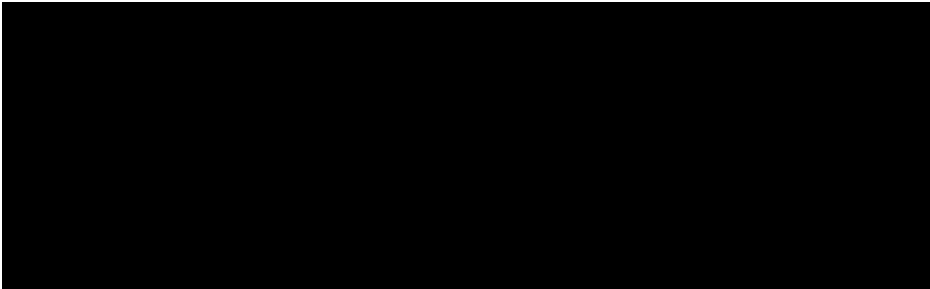
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Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 10

ACROSS

- 1 Orderly arrangement
6 List of choices
10 Buck or stag
14 Take off
15 Stratford's river
16 Gershwin and Levin
17 Magnitudes
18 Tenant's expense
19 Affectations
20 Lennon's love
21 Reflection depiction
24 Poised for action
26 Perfect accord
27 Gas pump info
29 On ___ (without guarantee)
31 Cowardly Lion player
32 Soreness

- 34 Monastic superior
39 Very, very bad
40 Isaac's mother
42 Jason's galley
43 Intuit
45 Tableland
46 Confident
47 Floored
49 Thuds and pings
51 On land
55 London flashlight
56 Cutty Sark, e.g.
59 Govt. agent
62 At any ___
63 Plebiscite
64 Japanese verse
66 Author Hunter
67 "___ in the Morning"
68 Concur
69 Gels
70 Lover's path
71 Must-haves

DOWN

- 1 As well
2 Bridle strap
3 Barely visible from the side
4 Hail, Caesar!
5 Flunky
6 Get hitched
7 In any way
8 Prohibited activity
9 Disloyal
10 Florida city
11 Met highlights
12 "Key ___"
13 City on the Ruhr
22 R&D output
23 Early Peruvian
25 Warren and Scruggs
27 Cheers for the matador
28 Lascaux or Altamira
29 Reduce to tatters

- 30 Pod contents
33 Showed up
35 Fundamental
36 Minor crisis
37 Shrek, for one
38 Low digits
41 Vietnamese capital
44 OK Corral combatant
48 Beetle pest
50 Foundling
51 Rancher's measure
52 Great ___ Lake
53 Swat
54 Unwraps
55 The closer ones
57 Fellini film
58 Knock for a loop
60 Made do with little
61 Membership fees
65 Birthday secret?

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Eliminating Athena Clusters Among EWG Suggestions

EWG, from Page 1

in a location like Briggs Field.

Lower impact recommendations

Several lower impact recommendations from the Education Working Group would affect Athena clusters, special student admissions, and Freshman Alternative Programs. According to the Education working group report, 95 percent of students at MIT have laptops, yet hardware for the Athena computers costs close to \$900,000 and software licenses come in at \$400,000. The Education Working Group proposed the elimination of all Athena computers or, as an alternative, a limit on printing either by implementing fees or providing utility programs.

Aside from cutting back on the annual \$300,000 cost of Athena printing, the Education Working Group found that this recommendation would reduce “obvious waste” and thus promote the “perception of being ‘green.’” An additional lower impact recommendation calls for an increase in “the number of special students admitted to the Institute on a term-by-term basis.” This involves offering seats, without credit, in undergraduate classes to special students for \$5,335 per seat and doubling the current number of special students from 150 to 300, but the Education Working Group notes that this recommendation could affect the classroom experience both positively and negatively. This recommendation is

estimated to create \$1.6 million in revenue per year. Potential savings also lie in Freshman Alternative Programs. According to the report, 15–20 percent of freshmen participate in one of three programs: Experimental Study Group (ESG), Terrascope, and Concourse. In FY2010, the total budget for these programs will drop from \$1.5 million to \$1.4 million. These cuts would come from an approximate 50 percent reduction in the number of science instructors within ESG and Concourse, saving \$240,000, and the possible elimination of Terrascope, saving \$290,000. Terrascope could be integrated into the Earth and Planetary Science or Civil and Environmental Engineering departments or other freshman

programs. According to Nicole K. Bucala ’11, the undergraduate representative in the Education Working Group, it is difficult to compare these recommendations since “they will impact different people in different ways. Similarly, the financial savings will be felt differently by different people and at different times.”

Organization of the Education Working Group

The Education Working Group consisted of 25 members, including one undergraduate and one graduate student, and 2 co-chairs: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department Head W. Eric L. Grimson PhD ’80 and Dean for Under-

graduate Education Daniel Hastings PhD ’80. The working group was split into four subgroups: Faculty and Academic Structure, Undergraduate Education, Graduate and Professional Education, and Pipeline and Co-Curricular issues. According to Hastings, meetings for the entire working group and individual subgroups alternated each week. Hastings said that, after the Preliminary Task Force Report was released in August, the working group “read all the feedback and reflected on whether we wanted to change what we said. Between the release of the Preliminary and Final Report, Dean Hastings said there was “no substantive change to the recommendations.”

Chimps and Monkeys Could Talk. Why Don’t They?

By Nicholas Wade
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Walking through the Tai forest of Ivory Coast, Klaus Zuberbuehler could hear the calls of the Diana monkeys, but the babble held no meaning for him. That was in 1990. Today, after nearly 20 years of studying animal communication, he can translate the forest’s sounds. This call means a Diana monkey has seen a leopard. That one means it has sighted another predator, the crowned eagle. “In our experience time and again, it’s a humbling experience to realize there is so much more information being passed in ways which hadn’t been noticed before,” said Zuberbuehler, a psychologist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

calls as words for “leopard,” “snake” or “eagle,” but that is not really so. The vervets do not combine the calls with other sounds to make new meanings. They do not modulate them, so far as is known, to convey that a leopard is 10, or 100, feet away. Their alarm calls seem less like words and more like a person saying “Ouch!” — a vocal representation of an inner mental state rather than an attempt to convey exact information. But the calls do have specific meaning, which is a start. And the biologists who analyzed the vervet calls, Robert Seyfarth and Dorothy Cheney of the University of Pennsylvania, detected another significant element in primates’ communication when they moved on to study baboons. Baboons are very sensitive to who stands where in their society’s hierarchy. If played a recording of a superior baboon threatening an inferior, and the latter screaming in terror, baboons will pay no attention — this is business as usual in baboon affairs. But when researchers concoct a recording in which an inferior’s threat grunt precedes a superior’s scream, baboons will look in amazement toward the loudspeaker broadcasting this apparent revolution in their social order.

Baboons evidently recognize the order in which two sounds are heard, and attach different meanings to each sequence. They and other species thus seem much closer to people in their understanding of sound sequences than in their production of them. “The ability to think in sentences does not lead them to speak in sentences,” Drs. Seyfarth and Cheney wrote in their book “Baboon Metaphysics.” Some species may be able to produce sounds in ways that are a step or two closer to human language. Zuberbuehler reported last month that Campbell’s monkeys, which live in the forests of the Ivory Coast, can vary individual calls by adding suffixes, just as a speaker of English changes a verb’s present tense to past by adding an “-ed.” The Campbell’s monkeys give a “krak” alarm call when they see a leopard. But adding an “-oo” changes it to a generic warning of predators. One context for the “krak-oo” sound is when they hear the leopard alarm calls of another species, the Diana monkey. The Campbell’s monkeys would evidently make good reporters since they distinguish between leopards they have observed directly (krak) and those they have heard others observe (krak-oo). Even more remarkably, the Campbell’s monkeys can combine two calls to generate a third with a different

meaning. The males have a “Boom boom” call, which means “I’m here, come to me.” When “booms” are followed by a series of “krak-oo,” the meaning is quite different, Zuberbuehler says. The sequence means “Timber! Falling tree!” Zuberbuehler has observed a similar achievement among putty-nosed monkeys that combine their “pyow” call (warning of a leopard) with their “hack” call (warning of a crowned eagle) into a sequence that means “Let’s get out of here in a real hurry.” Apes have larger brains than monkeys and might be expected to produce more calls. But if there is an elaborate code of chimpanzee communication, their human cousins have not yet cracked it. Chimps make a food call that seems to have a lot of variation, perhaps depending on the perceived quality of the food. How many different meanings can the call assume? “You would need the animals themselves to decide how many meaningful calls they can discrimi-

nate,” Zuberbuehler said. Such a project, he estimates, could take a lifetime of research. Monkeys and apes possess many of the faculties that underlie language. They hear and interpret sequences of sounds much like people do. They have good control over their vocal tract and could produce much the same range of sounds as humans. But they cannot bring it all together. This is particularly surprising because language is so useful to a social species. Once the infrastructure of language is in place, as is almost the case with monkeys and apes, the faculty might be expected to develop very quickly by evolutionary standards. Yet monkeys have been around for 30 million years without saying a single sentence. Chimps, too, have nothing resembling language, though they shared a common ancestor with humans just 5 million years ago. What is it that has kept all other primates locked in the prison of their own thoughts?

Seyfarth and Cheney believe that one reason may be that they lack a “theory of mind”; the recognition that others have thoughts. Since a baboon does not know or worry about what another baboon knows, it has no urge to share its knowledge. Zuberbuehler stresses an intention to communicate as the missing factor. Children from the youngest ages have a great desire to share information with others, even though they gain no immediate benefit in doing so. Not so with other primates. “In principle, a chimp could produce all the sounds a human produces, but they don’t do so because there has been no evolutionary pressure in this direction,” Zuberbuehler said. At some point in human evolution, on the other hand, people developed the desire to share thoughts, Zuberbuehler notes. All the underlying systems of perceiving and producing sounds were already in place, and natural selection had only to find a way of connecting these systems with thought.

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More Changes to 8.01 TEAL Likely to Come in Future

8.01, from Page 1

duced the stress level [of the class],” said Dourmashkin.

Students had mixed responses to the non-graded problem sets. Some students agreed that not having graded problem sets did not impact their studies or felt that it helped them cope with 8.01.

“I don’t think they should assign problem sets. If you assign them, it’s mandatory. It’s better to do it for you rather than just to get it done,” said Stephanie Tsai ’13, an 8.01 student this past fall.

Yet others felt that it would have been helpful for the class if they were required to hand in the problem sets and received some feedback from the graders.

“I would rather hand in problem

sets; they give more motivation and they also have a good sampling of problems we need to know,” said Kathryn Dere ’13.

Although the total failure rate was the same, there was a decrease in the number of F letter grades received between the two years: Last fall, 6 percent of students received F grades, while only 4 percent of students this fall received the grade. It was also reported that the final exam average increased by 2.6 points from the final exam average from last fall, from 54.0 to 56.6. Greytak stated, “Instructors agreed [the final] was harder. But the students did better ... than last year’s class. We were pleased.”

Students who received a D grade based on quiz and test scores and made an effort to complete the other

coursework are given the option of taking the “Second Chance Program” over IAP. According to Greytak, if students pass the IAP class, a grade change will be submitted and the students will be reported as having passed 8.01.

The Second Chance Program focuses on having students do problems instead of learning new material, according to Greytak. The program is taught in a TEAL-style format, where the students work in groups of two. Students who received an F are not eligible for the Second Chance program because the program assumes that the student has enough understanding of physics to be able to solve problems.

“It was a brilliant idea because F is quite different from D,” said Peter

Dourmashkin ’76, noting that those who received a D in 8.01 have a basic grasp of the concepts and put effort into the class, whereas those who received Fs placed little effort into the class.

One criticism of TEAL is that the format makes students depend on each other: Students are put into groups of ten and subgroups of three and are expected to solve problems together. Often, students are at different physics skill levels. According to Tsai, “Your performance may depend on the people in your group — it’s like luck. If you have people who know what they’re doing but don’t really want to help you, then you might as well go to lecture and recitation.”

Dere added that the size of the class made it difficult to work ef-

fectively in groups and to receive enough personalized feedback from teaching assistants.

In response to some of the complaints, both Greytak and Dourmashkin have stated that they are planning to make changes to the 8.01 program. One proposed change is “Spot Grading,” which refers to grading only one question from the problem set. This will make students hand in their problem sets but will still allow more undergraduate teaching assistants to answer questions during class rather than grading the entire problem sets. Another proposed change is to have the problem sets of each graded by teaching assistants assigned to that class so that assistants would be more capable of identifying and helping poorly performing students.

UA Reluctant to Support Housing Proposal

FSILGs, from Page 1

concern.

Concerns were further voiced that living groups may be less safe than dorms, but those in support of the proposal said that argument was irrelevant and that freshmen are adults, capable of making their own decisions.

Both Undergraduate Association President Michael A. Bennie ’10 and Secretary General Elizabeth A. Denys ’11 have yet to be persuaded to support the proposal.

“The proposal is not a bad idea, but my biggest concern lies with the lack of focus in the e-mailed discussions about the beneficial impacts for the FSILGs,” commented Denys.

“I don’t know if there is support for this proposal from any major MIT organizations, such as the UA and FSILG office, in its entirety. Also, there may be an unfair advantage for fraternities with more openings in their houses when it comes to recruiting freshmen. As the way it is now, I think it’s unlikely for the proposal to go through,” added Bennie.

Those in agreement with allowing only second-semester freshmen to live off-campus emphasize the importance of the first semester on campus for freshmen.

“The first semester gives freshmen the opportunity to experience MIT’s dorm culture and make friends outside of their respective FSILGs,” said Sebastian Velez ’12,

a brother of Theta Delta Chi.

Others suggested a change more radical than that in the proposal — allowing first semester freshmen to move into their FSILG.

“There’s nothing inherently dangerous about living groups, and they are probably as safe as dorms and provide a similar kind of community,” said Kyle A. Miller ’12, a member of Tau Epsilon Phi.

“By the second semester, many freshmen want to become closer to their FSILG members, and are eager to move to their houses.”

Many freshmen do unofficially move to their FSILG houses. This phenomenon, referred to as “ghosting,” leaves empty beds in the names of those not using their registered dorm housing.

In light of the criticisms surrounding the proposal, Neltner does not think it is appropriate to make revisions, for the changes may no longer reflect the opinions of the many individuals who have signed in support of it.

“We’ve had an amazingly positive response from across the student and alumni body already, but we are still hopeful for a great deal of additional feedback,” said Neltner. He hopes that an actual committee will eventually form to further investigate the proposal.

In the first week after the proposal was sent, roughly 350 students and 225 alumni signed a petition in support of the motion. The petition is viewable at <http://fsilg-housing.org/>.

HASS-D Eliminated in Favor of New System

GIRs, from Page 1

remain the same. The timeline for the implementation of these changes is under development.

Dean Hastings noted that student reaction to this simplification has been positive, and that the changes would have little financial impact on MIT overall.

“I do not believe that there are overall financial implications to restructuring, [but] there may be some internal resource shifts,” he said.

“First-Year Focus” classes — freshman-oriented HASS classes designed to have an interdisciplinary approach — were in preliminary implementation and testing at the time of the release of Interim Report of the Educational Commons Subcommittee, originally tasked with restructuring the GIRs, last year. More of these classes were suggested in the report and approved at the faculty meeting.

The science portion of the proposal was less successful than the HASS proposals, receiving a majority vote of 81 to 69 but not the required three-fifths majority to pass. Failed proposals discussed in the interim report last fall included “flavors” of required classes and “foundational” GIRs. Flavors would have been versions of science GIRs geared to incorporate discipline-specific examples that would allow students to gain a better background within their field, similar to the variety of classes offered to fulfill the chemistry and biology GIRs.

“The [idea] was to extend the biology and chemistry models to the other science GIRs,” said Hastings.

Foundational GIRs would have served as 6- or 12-unit prerequisites for different departments to allow students to explore and gain knowledge in those fields prior to taking classes within the departments, such as linear algebra, computation, and differential equations.

Dean Hastings noted at the October faculty meeting that less drastic changes to the science core would still be considered, such as with adding different topics and applications in Calculus and Differential Equations.

Currently, there are several categories of GIRs: Science, Lab, Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST), and HASS. Outlined within the science category are the courses that fulfill this requirement: chemistry (3.091 and 5.11x), physics (8.01x and 8.02x), biology (7.01x), and calculus (18.01x and 18.02x). A 12 unit laboratory requirement must also be fulfilled. Students must take 2 REST classes, along with 8 HASS classes, which include 4 Communication-Intensive classes.

SIPB IAP

The GNU Debugger

Wed Jan 13 5-7 PM room: 1-115

GDB, the GNU Project debugger, allows you to see what is going on 'inside' another program while it executes -- or what another program was doing when it crashed.

Caffeinated Crashed Course in Computer Forensics

Wed Jan 13 6-8 PM room: 66-160

You'll see what kinds of data can be recovered from various devices and understand that information hasn't been destroyed unless the media has been raised to the Curie Point.

Git Will Make Your Life Better

Thur Jan 14, 21 3-5 PM (repeated session) room: 1-115

Git is a version control system to help you combine changes to a document a from many writers without e-mailing versions back and forth, used on projects that span the globe.

Programming Java

Tue/Thur Jan 12, 14,19, 21 5 PM -7 PM room: 1-115

Wake up and smell the coffee! Find out why this platform-independent object-oriented lanuage (now open-source) is one of the fastest growing languages in modern computing.

Introduction to Latex

Wed Jan 13, 20 3-5 PM (repeated session) room: 1-115

LaTeX is the gold standard for document typesetting in academia We'll see how easy it is to make professional-looking papers and resumes, and presentations.

Building Websites For Mobile Devices

Tue Jan 19 7:30 – 9:30 PM room: 4-237

Learn about the challenges and quirks of mobile devices and how to give your users a full-featured experience without locking out those with less-capable phones.

Caffeinated Crash Course in Ruby

Tue Jan 19, 7:00pm – 9:30pm 1-115

Ruby was designed to take some of the best ideas from Perl, Python, LISP, and Smalltalk to make programming with it an enjoyable experience.

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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Officials Hid Truth of Immigrant Deaths in U.S. Jails

By **Nina Bernstein**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Silence has long shrouded the men and women who die in the nation’s immigration jails. For years, they went uncounted and unnamed in the public record. Even in 2008, when *The New York Times* obtained and published a federal government list of such deaths, few facts were available about who these people were and how they died.

But behind the scenes, it is now clear, the deaths had already generated thousands of pages of government documents, including scathing investigative reports that were kept under wraps, and a trail of confidential memos and BlackBerry messages that show officials working to stymie outside inquiry.

The documents, obtained over recent months by *The Times* and the American Civil Liberties Union under the Freedom of Information Act, concern most of the 107 deaths in detention counted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement since October 2003, after the agency was created within the Department of Homeland Security.

The Obama administration has vowed to overhaul immigration detention, a haphazard network of privately run jails, federal centers and county cells where the government holds noncitizens while it tries to deport them.

But as the administration moves to increase oversight within the agency, the documents show how officials — some still in key positions — used their role as overseers to cover up evidence of mistreatment, deflect scrutiny by the news media or prepare exculpatory public statements after gathering facts that pointed to substandard care or abuse.

As one man lay dying of head injuries suffered in a New Jersey immigration jail in 2007, for example, a spokesman for the federal agency told *The Times* that he could learn nothing about the case from government authorities. In fact, the records show, the spokesman had alerted those officials to the reporter’s inquiry, and they conferred at length about sending the man back to Africa to avoid embarrassing publicity.

In another case that year, investigators from the agency’s Office of Professional Responsibility concluded

ed that unbearable, untreated pain had been a significant factor in the suicide of a 22-year-old detainee at the Bergen County Jail in New Jersey, and that the medical unit was so poorly run that other detainees were at risk.

The investigation found that jail medical personnel had falsified a medication log to show that the detainee, a Salvadoran named Nery Romero, had been given Motrin. The fake entry was easy to detect: When the drug was supposedly administered, Romero was already dead.

Yet those findings were never disclosed to the public or to Romero’s relatives on Long Island, who had accused the jail of abruptly depriving him of his prescription painkiller for a broken leg. And an agency supervisor wrote that because other jails were “finicky” about accepting detainees with known medical problems like Romero’s, such people would continue to be placed at the Bergen jail as “a last resort.”

In a recent interview, Benjamin Feldman, a spokesman for the jail, which housed 1,503 immigration detainees last year, would not say whether any changes had been made since the death.

In February 2007, in the case of the dying African man, the immigration agency’s spokesman for the Northeast, Michael Gilhooly, rebuffed a *Times* reporter’s questions about the detainee, who had suffered a skull fracture at the privately run Elizabeth Detention Center in New Jersey. Gilhooly said that without a full name and alien registration number for the man, he could not check on the case.

But, records show, he had already filed a report warning top managers at the federal agency about the reporter’s interest and sharing information about the injured man, a Guinean tailor named Boubacar Bah. Bah, 52, had been left in an isolation cell without treatment for more than 13 hours before an ambulance was called.

While he lay in the hospital in a coma after emergency brain surgery, 10 agency managers in Washington and Newark conferred by telephone and e-mail about how to avoid the cost of his care and the likelihood of “increased scrutiny and/or media exposure,” according to a memo summarizing the discussion.

One option they explored was sending the dying man to Guinea, despite an e-mail message from the supervising deportation officer, who wrote, “I don’t condone removal in his present state as he has a catheter” and was unconscious. Another idea was renewing Bah’s canceled work permit in hopes of tapping into Medicaid or disability benefits.

Eventually, faced with paying \$10,000 a month for nursing home care, officials settled on a third course: “humanitarian release” to cousins in New York who had protested that they had no way to care for him. But days before the planned release, Bah died.

Among the participants in the conferences was Nina Dozoretz, a longtime manager in the agency’s Division of Immigration Health Services who had won an award for cutting detainee health care costs. Later she was vice president of the Nakamoto Group, a company hired by the Bush administration to monitor detention. The Obama administration recently rehired her to lead its overhaul of detainee health care.

Asked about the conference call on Bah, Dozoretz said: “How many years ago was that? I don’t recall all the specifics if indeed there was a call.” She added, “I advise you to contact our public affairs office.” Gilhooly, the spokesman who had said he had no information on the case, would not comment.

On the day after Bah’s death in May 2007, Scott Weber, director of the Newark field office of the immigration enforcement agency, recommended in a memo that the agency take the unusual step of paying to send the body to Guinea for burial, to prevent his widow from showing up in the United States for a funeral and drawing news coverage.

Weber wrote that he believed the agency had handled Bah’s case appropriately. “However,” he added, “I also don’t want to stir up any media interest where none is warranted.” Helping to bury Bah overseas, he wrote, “will go a long way to putting this matter to rest.”

In the agency’s confidential files was a jail video showing Bah face down in the medical unit, hands cuffed behind his back, just before medical personnel sent him to a disciplinary cell. The tape shows him

crying out repeatedly in his native Fulani, “Help, they are killing me!”

Almost a year after his death, the agency quietly closed the case without action. But Bah’s name had shown up on the first list of detention fatalities, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, and on May 5, 2008, his death was the subject of a front-page article in *The Times*.

Brian P. Hale, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said in an interview that the newly disclosed records represented the past, and that the agency’s new leaders were committed to transparency and greater oversight, including prompt public disclosure and investigation of every death, and more attention to detainee care in a better-managed system.

But the most recent documents show that the culture of secrecy has endured. And the past cover-ups underscore what some of the agency’s own employees say is a central flaw in the proposed overhaul: a reliance on the agency to oversee itself.

“Because ICE investigates itself there is no transparency and there is no reform or improvement,” Chris Crane, a vice president in the union that represents employees of the agency’s detention and removal operations, told a congressional subcommittee on Dec. 10.

The agency has kept a database of detention fatalities at least since December 2005, when a National Public Radio investigation spurred a congressional inquiry. In 2006, the agency issued standard procedures for all such deaths to be reported in detail to headquarters.

But internal documents suggest that officials were intensely concerned with controlling public information. In April 2007, Marc Raimondi, then an agency spokesman, warned top managers that a Washington Post reporter had asked about a list of 19 deaths that the civil liberties union had compiled, and about a dying man whose penile cancer had spread after going undiagnosed in detention, despite numerous medical requests for a biopsy.

“These are quite horrible medical stories,” Raimondi wrote, “and I think we’ll need to have a pretty strong response to keep this from becoming a very damaging national story that takes on long legs.”

That response was an all-out de-

fense of detainee medical care over several months, including statistics that appeared to show that mortality rates in detention were declining, and were low compared with death rates in prisons.

Experts in detention health care called the comparison misleading; it also came to light that the agency was undercounting the number of detention deaths, as well as discharging some detainees shortly before they died. In August, litigation by the civil liberties union prompted the Obama administration to disclose that more than 1 in 10 immigrant detention deaths had been overlooked and omitted from a list submitted to Congress last year.

Two of those deaths had occurred in Arizona, in 2004 and 2007, at the Eloy Detention Center, run by the Corrections Corp. of America. Eloy had nine known fatalities — more than any other immigration jail under contract to the federal government. But Immigration and Customs Enforcement was still secretive. When a reporter for *The Arizona Republic* asked about the circumstances of those deaths, an agency spokesman told him the records were unavailable.

According to records *The Times* obtained in December, one Eloy detainee who died, in October 2008, was Emmanuel Owusu. An ailing 62-year-old barber who had arrived from Ghana on a student visa in 1972, he had been a legal permanent resident for 33 years, mostly in Chicago. Immigration authorities detained him in 2006, based on a 1979 conviction for misdemeanor battery and retail theft.

“I am confused as to how subject came into our custody????” the Phoenix field office director, Katrina S. Kane, wrote to subordinates. “Convicted in 1979? That’s a long time ago.”

In response, a report on his death was revised to refer to Owusu’s “lengthy criminal history ranging from 1977 to 1998.” It did not note that except for the battery conviction, that history consisted mostly of shoplifting offenses.

A diabetic with high blood pressure, he had been detained for two years at Eloy while he battled deportation. He died of a heart ailment weeks after his last appeal was dismissed.



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SPORTS

Swimming and Diving
Cruises Past Wheaton

On Friday night, MIT hosted Wheaton College in a NEWMAC swimming and diving dual meet. Both the men's and women's teams won easily to remain undefeated on the year.



On the women's side, Wheaton kept the competition close through the first few events, but the nationally-ranked No. 6 Engineers pulled away to secure an easy win, 186-114.

Sydney A. Giblin '12 (5:27.30), Hailey E. Kopp '13 (5:28.33) and Megan E. Tadge '13 (5:33.75) swept the 500 free. Kopp was also part of the winning 200 Free Relay (1:44.44).

Anna S. Kokensparger '13 added three more wins to her young career, including a team-record swim in the 100 Breast (1:07.83).

The No. 5 ranked men's team dominated as well, winning nearly every event.

In the 1000 Free, MIT's trio of Maxwell T. Pruner '13 (10:06.89), Michael J. Dobson '11 (10:45.45) and Eric J. Roselli '11 (10:51.25) posted MIT's first 1-2-3 finish of the meet. In another MIT sweep, Ron Rosenberg '13 (53.40) out-reached Timothy J. Stumbaugh '12 (53.69) for a narrow win in the 100

Back; Brendan F. Liu '13 (54.49) finished just over a second later.

MIT hits the water again next weekend when the Engineers host Colby College on Saturday, January 15.

—Paul Blascovich, DAPER Staff

Hollingsworth Leads Men's
Basketball Over Babson

The nationally-ranked No. 15 MIT Men's Basketball defeated Babson College 72-45 Saturday, behind a strong second half in which they outscored Babson 45-19.



Although the teams appeared evenly matched in the first half and Babson pulled within two points at the break, In the second half, MIT would go on a 21-2 run to put the game away.

Noel Hollingsworth '12 led MIT with 37 points. MIT shot 73.9 percent from the field while limiting Babson to 27.3 percent shooting.

With the win, MIT improves to 13-1 overall and remains undefeated against Division III opponents. They will next face WPI Wednesday night at home.

—David Zhu, Sports Editor

Skiing Races in First
Competition as Club
Sport; Sees Progress

By Alexis Dale
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

In its first season as a club sport, MIT's Alpine Ski Team is already back to business [almost] as usual. The team lives in New Hampshire during IAP, training four days a week and racing two days a week in a season of ten intercollegiate carnivals comprising five giant slalom and five slalom races. While the division scores 3 women and 5 men, MIT has fielded 2 women and 4 men and so receives a penalty in their team results for every race. Despite the difficult team circumstances, every individual member has already made personal improvements since the 2009 season.

Last Friday and Saturday, the team raced two giant slalom events at Mount Sunapee with the Women finishing 10th and the Men finishing 9th in their division. Women's captain Jillian R. Reddy '11 earned her spot in the first seed for the women, and as the first MIT skier down the race-course she was an important leader for the rest of her teammates. She finished

63 on Friday. Behind her, sophomore Sarah J. Laderman '12 finished 65, and simultaneously beat her personal best USSA point total for all of last season. The duo finished 59 and 61 on Saturday.

It was an equally eventful weekend for the Men's team. Jason D. Pier '13 started things off finishing 32 on Friday, then ended up with a top-25 individual finish on Saturday — an important achievement for post-season qualification. Michael J. Yurkerwich '11 was the Men's second finisher on Friday (36), but earned a DNF in his first run on Saturday. Next, the Men's team captain Ian C. Wolfe '10 clocked in consistent finishes: 46 on Friday improving to 43 on Saturday. First-time racer Kevin A. Rustagi '11 rounded out the field on both Friday and Saturday finishing 65 then 55. His Saturday results beat his Friday performance by the equivalent of nine seconds per run, a huge improvement.

Next week the team will compete in two slalom races at Cranmore.

The Blazers, Boston's
Lacrosse Team, Lose
Season Opener Sat.

By David Zhu
SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Blazers of the National Lacrosse League (NLL) fell to the Toronto Rock in their 2010 season opener at TD Garden on Saturday, 17-7.

In a repeat of last year's season-opening loss, the Blazers appeared to be overmatched the entire game, as the visitors jumped out to a 7-1 lead and never looked back. Boston also made many mistakes, dropping passes, committing turnovers, and even allowing Toronto to score a shorthanded goal at the beginning of the game. All-star goalie Anthony Cosmo was pulled up for a backup after allowing twelve goals.

Coach Tom Ryan blamed the mental lapses on overconfidence and the team "expecting to win without earning it." In addition, Ryan suspected of some players of not showing up in shape after the long holiday break.

Dan Dawson, last year's NLL most valuable player who received his trophy at halftime, had three goals and two assists, but admitted that he and his teammates showed "a poor effort ... and didn't execute."

"We weren't ready to play today ... [and need] better preparation for next week," said a frustrated Cosmo after the game. The two teams will face each other again next Friday in Toronto.



FENG WU—THE TECH

Swimmers leap into the water at the start of the men's 200 meter breaststroke event during MIT's home meet against Wheaton College on January 8, 2010 in the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center. Nicholas A. Souza '10 placed second in the event with a time of 2:26.80.

The Tech does
many things to
get a story.

It's flown its staff to
Chicago to see
March Madness
in person.



It's flown its
staff to Los
Angeles for E3.

It's gotten
its staff press
passes to Red
Sox games.



It's covered its
staff's dinners,
concerts, and
movies.

It's set up
interviews for
its staff with
movie stars,
foreign dignitaries, and
other famous people.



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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, January 13
Men's Basketball vs. WPI 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, January 16
Men's and Women's Track and Field vs. Bates, Colby & S. Maine 12 p.m., Johnson Track
Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Colby College 1 p.m., Z-Center Pool

Sunday, January 17
Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Coast Guard & Springfield 1 p.m., Z-Center Pool

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SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

| Saturday, January 9, 2010 | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Babson College | 45 |
| MIT | 72 |

Women's Basketball

| Saturday, January 9, 2010 | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Babson College | 45 |
| MIT | 28 |

Squash

| Tuesday, January 12, 2010 | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Amherst College | 9 |
| MIT | 0 |

Men's Swimming & Diving

| Friday, January 8, 2010 | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Wheaton College | 122 |
| MIT | 165 |

Women's Swimming & Diving

| Friday, January 8, 2010 | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Wheaton College | 114 |
| MIT | 186 |